

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 32
By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION naming the Cedar Forest Lodge at Cedars of Lebanon State Recreational Park the "Ranger Dick Huddleston Cedar Forest Lodge".

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary public servants who have worked assiduously to ensure the growth and prosperity of this state's forests and recreational parks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. William Walter "Dick" Huddleston is one such acclaimed citizen, who, for 36 years as an employee and forest ranger at Cedars of Lebanon State Forest and Recreation Park, played a prominent role in the development and maintenance of the forest, the largest remaining red cedar forest in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the son of Walter and Grace Huddleston, Mr. Huddleston was born in Wilson County in 1909 and attended schools there; and

WHEREAS, in 1936 when the federal government gave options on the purchase of land in the area of what is now the recreational park and forest, Ranger Huddleston was hired by the Works Progress Administration as an assistant payroll clerk as part of the project to reforest the land; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Huddleston's job as an assistant payroll clerk required him to travel to job sites throughout the thousand-acre area being worked, catching rides from anyone traveling to one of the sites, and eventually traveling the routes on his horse; and

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WHEREAS, in 1938, when the state began managing the forest, Dick Huddleston was deservedly selected by the state forester to serve as ranger, with the responsibility of overseeing the cutting and selling of fallen timber and planting trees; and

WHEREAS, from 1942 to 1949, when the forestry service turned the management of the forest over to the parks system, Mr. Huddleston immersed himself in the day-to-day operations of the park, lending his expertise in the management of concessions, the swimming pool, bathhouses and maintaining civil order; and

WHEREAS, when the park system relinquished control of Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Forest back to the forestry service in 1949, Ranger Huddleston again assumed the duties of forest ranger, assisting in fire control, maintenance of forest boundaries and reforestation efforts until his retirement in 1972; and

WHEREAS, by means of his incomparable service, Ranger Huddleston was instrumental in the development of Cedars of Lebanon State Recreational Park and State Forest into one of Tennessee's most treasured natural sites; and

WHEREAS, throughout his prodigious career, Ranger Huddleston selflessly placed the welfare of this forest and recreational park ahead of personal concerns, to the great benefit of all of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Ranger Huddleston is most appreciative of the love and support of his daughter Faye; and

WHEREAS, his beloved wife, Lorrene, recently passed from this life to a far better existence; and

WHEREAS, men of his abilities and stature do not often walk among us, and Ranger Dick Huddleston should be specially recognized as an outstanding representative of the true spirit of the Volunteer State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That the Cedar Forest Lodge at the Cedars of Lebanon State Recreation Park be named the "Ranger Dick Huddleston Cedar Forest Lodge" in honor of this distinguished gentleman's exemplary service to the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Environment and Conservation is hereby directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs designating such building at Cedars of Lebanon State Park as the "Ranger Dick Huddleston Cedar Forest Lodge".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Huddleston, the "Ranger Dick Huddleston Cedar Forest Lodge", and Commissioner Milton Hamilton, Jr. of the Department of Environment and Conservation, with this final clause omitted from such copies.